

majority's decision, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

The bottom line is that local and Federal governments must take every landowner as a special case because the people who own the properties that are subject to economic redevelopment play just as big a role as the projected revenues that the local jurisdiction hopes to bring in with a new development. Just because you are poor does not mean that your right to private property is worth any less than that of a wealthy developer.

The Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009 will restore the property rights of all Americans that the Supreme Court changed with the Kelo decision. This legislation would prevent the Federal Government or any authority of the Federal Government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain. This bill would also discourage States and localities from abusing their eminent domain power by denying States or localities that commit such abuse all Federal economic development funds for a period of two years. This bill is substantially similar to H.R. 4128, legislation that passed the House in the 109th Congress by an overwhelmingly vote of 376–38, nearly a 10–1 margin, but unfortunately, was never enacted.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the private property rights of every American and hope they will join me in sponsoring the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

For 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act to ensure that the United States would have continued commercial, cultural, and other relations with Taiwan. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became law and codified the basis for relations between the United States and Taiwan. This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over these past 30 years, Taiwan has seen remarkable changes, from rapid economic

growth to significant political transformation. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power from a one-party state under martial law to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system. In March of last year, the people of Taiwan participated in Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential election. The smooth and peaceful transition from one administration to another is a testament to Taiwan's continued dedication to the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The Taiwan Relations Act has also been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability across the Taiwan Strait. When the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, it affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. The Act also states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." I believe that, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States should continue to support the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan.

It is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, especially across the Taiwan Strait. Let us recognize the past 30 years of the Taiwan Relations Act and maintain and strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations for many years to come.

HONORABLE JOHN LAWRENCE MADURO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the legends of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Honorable John Lawrence Maduro will be laid to rest next week. Many will rise to speak in his honor for he was one of the founding fathers of the political system in the territory and as a consequence someone who influenced our community in the social and economic aspects as well.

Born on St. Thomas, Maduro was a graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School, New York University and George Washington University School of Law. He served in World War II in the North African and European theaters and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant and later Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves.

We were proud to honor him and all living WWII Veterans in the Virgin Islands two years ago, and he was always very proud of his service.

When he returned to the Virgin Islands in the 1950s, he became active in politics and in the process became one of the titans of the Legislature, serving for twenty-two years. He presided over the body twice and during his tenure, worked with his colleagues to achieve political rights for the territory that included the right to elect its own governor and delegate to

Congress, the right of the Legislature to apportion its seat in accordance to the vote rule, the right to fix the compensation of its members and the rights to override gubernatorial vetoes.

Maduro presented a weekly political radio broadcast that kept his constituency informed about legislative issues and also was an active partner in the law firm of Birch, deJongh and Farrelly.

It has been said of John L. Maduro that "he was determined to create a Virgin Islands that would offer unlimited opportunities to its citizens in all areas of social, political and economic endeavor and a Virgin Islands where pride in one's heritage and homeland would be everlasting."

Madame Speaker, John L. Maduro and Elmo D. Roebuck, who I spoke of earlier this week are part of a generation of leaders who put their intellect, their discipline and their foresight to the use of the people of the Virgin Islands. They were leaders who we were proud to follow, who rose to the challenge of shepherding the territory through the rapid changes of 20th century modernization and they gave our generation and the generations to follow a territory that is still poised to be a regional leader and a positive example of democratic government.

Madam Speaker, we will miss Johnny Maduro. The people of the Virgin Islands will not forget his example as we work to create for this century, a free and prosperous Virgin Islands.

IRAN'S MISSION FOR NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Iran's mission for nuclear proliferation. If Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, the repercussions would be detrimental to our global security. A nuclear Iran would not only pose a threat to the United States and our allies, but would also destabilize an already volatile Middle East region.

Under the guise of energy production, Iran is today actively seeking to acquire nuclear weapon technology. This fact is supported by United Nations inspectors who have found that certain aspects of the Iranian nuclear program are useful only for developing nuclear weapons.

Recently, Iran has further developed its nuclear weapons production capability. In December, Iran constructed a domed containment center adjacent to a heavy water reactor in Arak. This structure makes it impossible to monitor the reactor by satellite. In the past three months, Iran has installed nearly 1,500 centrifuges. As a result, it could take only 2 to 3 months for Iran to enrich uranium to weapons grade. Furthermore, Iran has recently acquired 2,200 pounds of low enriched uranium—enough for one first-generation nuclear bomb.

A nuclear Iran would significantly impact the surrounding region. The repercussions would be felt not only by Middle Eastern countries, but also by countries around the world. The possible outcomes could range from a Middle